

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Chronic Liver Disease Death Rate
Justification	Long term, heavy alcohol consumption is the leading cause of chronic liver disease, in particular cirrhosis, one of the 12 leading causes of death. Approximately 15,000 people in the U.S. die from cirrhosis each year.
Definition	Number of deaths from chronic liver disease per 1,000 population
Numerator	Annual number of deaths with ICD-9 codes 571.0-571.9 or ICD-10 codes K70 and K73-K74 as underlying cause of death
Denominator	Total resident population for same calendar year
Data Sources	Death certificate data from the National Center for Health Statistics National Vital Statistics System as reported in the Mortality Detail Files (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (denominator)
Frequency	Annual
Geographic Levels	National, State, and County
Demographic Categories	Age by Gender by Race/Ethnicity
Strengths	Readily available for many years in all states. The measure has been used consistently as an indicator of heavy chronic drinking for many years.
Limitations	This indicator is only based on deaths; cases of cirrhosis morbidity are not reflected in this indicator. Alcohol-related cirrhosis may have a long latency; there may be a lag of several years between changes in behavior and population mortality. The stability of this indicator is directly related to the size of the population in which these deaths occur. Therefore, this indicator may be unstable for less populated states and counties that have low numbers of annual deaths, especially when used for demographic subgroups. There also is variability in the procedures used within and across each state to determine cause of death.